

ABSTRACT

A fluorescent lamp 6 emits illumination light (primary light), which is deflected by means of a light guide plate 4 to be converted into a light flux having an enlarged cross section. A liquid crystal display panel 3 is supplied with the light flux via a prism sheet (light control sheet) 12. The prism sheet 12 or an alternative light control sheet to be employed is capable of rotating polarization involved by the light toward a direction of light transmission axis of a polarization plate 14. An effective light input to the liquid crystal display panel 3 is achieved by light transmission through the polarization plate 14 at a high transmission rate. The liquid crystal display panel 3 controls polarization state of the inputted light and, according to the state, causes the light to pass through another polarization plate (analyser) 15. Emission occurs, under intensity control depending on positions, via the polarization plate (analyzer) 15, to provide an image. Polarization rotation function for modifying the emission of the light guide plate 4 can be obtained through manufacturing of a mother material of the prism sheet 12 by means of one-axle drawing process or two-axle drawing process. Prism cuts may be formed on a back face 8 or emission face 11 of the light guide plate 4. A polarization-rotating sheet may be alternatively interposed between a prism sheet provided with no polarization-rotating ability and the polarization plate 14.

(Fig.1)